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Chair: Mr. Talbot ..... (Guyana)

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Ms. Al-Hadid** (Jordan) said that while nearly five years had passed since the onset of the global economic and financial crisis, the world economy had yet to fully recover. Given the shifting economic landscape, a more dynamic model of international development was therefore needed in order to enhance cooperation in such areas as finance, technology transfer, debt relief and trade.

2. As the deadline for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) neared and discussions of the post-2015 development agenda began in earnest, her delegation believed that a new development model would offer a more inclusive approach to poverty eradication and sustainable development. At the same time, the upcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) would provide an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of the support provided by the United Nations development system.

3. Achieving those goals required greater system-wide coordination, a task which could be met through the "Delivering as One" initiative. In addition, the Resident Coordinator system could serve as a key driver in responding to shifts in the global context for development. The global economy was confronting a number of challenges and new policies and international frameworks that respected the basic principle of inclusive participation were urgently needed.

4. **Mr. Jawhara** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Committee's work had taken on particular importance given the need, inter alia, to formulate the post-2015 development agenda and complete the QCPR. In view of the numerous natural disasters caused by climate change, developed countries should promote genuine international solidarity based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. The international community should reaffirm the commitments made at the Bali Climate Change Conference, and under the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

5. The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) contained an ambitious set of principles intended to complement previous commitments for the benefit of all peoples. All States must uphold those principles by putting an end to foreign occupation and illegal economic, financial and trade measures and must refrain from politicizing development issues or exploiting them for hegemonic purposes.

6. Israel continued to occupy the Palestinian territory and the Syrian Golan in flagrant violation of international law thereby draining Syrian resources and endangering the environment and the livelihoods of the region's Syrian inhabitants. It was now planning to build wind turbines in the occupied Syrian Golan, thereby contravening General Assembly resolution 66/225, which reaffirmed the permanent sovereignty of the people of the occupied Syrian Golan over the region's natural resources. The Committee should highlight the adverse economic and environmental impacts of foreign occupation, which had been acknowledged repeatedly in United Nations resolutions and reports. The outcome document of Rio+20 rightly reiterated the commitment of the international community to remove the obstacles preventing peoples under occupation from achieving sustainable development.

7. The unilateral sanctions imposed by certain States were hindering developing countries' efforts to confront the global economic and financial crises. His delegation deplored the use by certain States and regional entities of unilateral measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights. In order to uphold the credibility of the United Nations system, all Member States and regional entities must comply with General Assembly resolution 66/186 in particular.

8. **Mr. Sinhaseni** (Thailand) said that the outcome of Rio+20 provided a strong foundation to achieve the goal of sustainable development. A more concerted effort was now needed to reach agreement on a set of achievable sustainable development goals. To that end, his country would remain actively engaged in the negotiations.

9. In addition, more immediate solutions were needed to such issues as global economic governance. Given that the sovereign debt crisis in the Eurozone had significantly impacted a number of developing countries, existing mechanisms of global economic governance should be enhanced, and best practices should be shared through, inter alia, the International

Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Moreover, the United Nations system should play a vital role in supporting the formulation of national policy measures designed to intensify cluster cooperation and strengthen capital markets.

10. Of particular concern was the issue of food security, which represented a potential threat to all. The sharing of reliable and updated information on food production, consumption and reserves could cushion the impact of price volatility and he cited various mechanisms in different parts of the world which gathered and shared such information. Relevant organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) should assist in the coordination of national policies on food security.

11. Given that some countries might be tempted to accelerate their economic growth without regard for the environment, it was important to redouble environmental conservation efforts. His Government supported the continuation of climate change negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and of work on strategies for disaster preparedness and response at all levels, notably through the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015).

12. Finally, the Committee's work was especially relevant in that it covered such areas as information and communication technology, which could support efforts to promote sustainable development by providing vital input for data-driven decision-making in crises and for long-term planning.

13. **Mr. Hassen** (Ethiopia) said that the overall global economic situation remained dire and that greater efforts must be made to stimulate job creation and investment in infrastructure and productive capacities. Policymakers in developed countries should address weaknesses in the public and financial sectors in order to prevent any further deterioration of the global economy.

14. While considerable progress had been made in reducing extreme poverty, hunger and malnutrition remained high; progress on other fronts was less encouraging. In particular, the target of reducing maternal mortality rates by three-quarters by 2015 was proving elusive and environmental sustainability was not yet within reach.

15. The key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) undoubtedly lay in Goal No. 8 regarding a global partnership for development. However, despite renewed commitments made, inter alia, in the Paris Declaration and in the Accra Agenda for Action, development assistance remained below what was required. Moreover, in 2011 official development assistance (ODA) had been 3 per cent lower than in 2010. Delivering an effective amount of ODA, on a consistent basis particularly to the least developed countries, and providing meaningful access to communication and climate change mitigation technologies was therefore essential.

16. The post-2015 United Nations development agenda should be based on the MDGs and should incorporate additional issues such as employment, sustainability, climate change and inequalities within and between countries that had emerged in recent years. Issues pertaining to the development aspirations of developing countries, such as inclusive economic growth, productive employment, and disaster risk reduction, should be at the forefront of the discussion. It should likewise place greater emphasis on the growing vulnerability of the poor to the effects of natural disasters and economic shocks.

17. The specific development needs of the least developed countries should be kept high on the international development agenda, while the follow-up mechanism of the Istanbul Programme of Action should be put in place in order to ensure its timely and effective implementation. His country wished to ensure that the issues relevant to the LDCs were properly addressed in the upcoming intergovernmental process.

18. **Mr. Kohona** (Sri Lanka) said that the Rio+20 outcome document had provided a clear blueprint for the global sustainable development agenda. The commitments reflected in it should be translated into action through intergovernmental processes with the full cooperation of the United Nations system, and the primacy of people's undeniable right to development should be kept foremost in view.

19. Global warming and climate change represented the two greatest challenges facing the international community. Emissions levels, which had largely been caused by a small number of industrialized economies, had severely impacted many developing countries,

including his own. As existing multilateral arrangements remained largely inadequate, it was imperative that industrialized countries undertake a higher level of commitment in addressing the issue. He therefore urged the developed world to deliver on its promises proactively.

20. He noted with regret that many countries were struggling to achieve the MDGs by the appointed deadline due, in large part, to a reduction in funding from countries which had once made commitments to provide assistance. The global financial crisis, which had been caused by irresponsible financial markets and inadequate regulations in developed countries, had disrupted the social fabric of many societies and affected the lives of millions of people. The contraction of export markets, the continued restrictions on market access, rising energy costs and a looming food crisis had further aggravated the situation.

21. Its balanced social and economic strategies had propelled it to middle-income status despite the disruptions caused by a prolonged terrorist threat and the devastation of the Indian Ocean tsunami and it had already achieved most of the MDGs. Its economy had expanded by 8.2 per cent in 2011, and its agricultural and fisheries sectors had continued to grow; as a result, food insecurity was no longer an issue. In addition, 85 per cent of the population now had access to clean drinking water, child and maternal mortality rates had been reduced to the levels of more affluent countries, and 91 per cent of the population had been connected to the electricity grid. It had also achieved a 98 per cent literacy rate, with great strides having been made by women and girls.

22. His country was always prepared to share its experiences and expertise with others, and it was particularly eager to promote South-South cooperation. It therefore strongly urged that the action plan of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation should be implemented in full.

23. Finally, noting that the Committee had within its mandate the subject of permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory over their natural resources, he said that the world should not delay in restoring the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. His Government fully supported the immediate implementation of all relevant United Nations resolutions on Palestine that would pave the way for the achievement of Palestinian statehood.

24. **Mr. Morejón** (Ecuador) said that the world continued to face the repercussions of the 2008 economic and financial crises. Trillions of dollars had been mobilized to bail out the very people who had caused the crises; yet the world lacked the political will to reform the international financial architecture, follow up on official development assistance commitments, break the deadlock in the Doha round of negotiations, regulate the excessive volatility in financial flows and food prices, or create new mechanisms to resolve the external debt crisis. The recent supposedly high-level thematic debate on the state of the world economy and finance, did not meet the standard of open, inclusive, timely and transparent consultations referred to in General Assembly resolution 65/313. The international community had yet to establish an ad hoc panel of experts on the world economic and financial crisis and its impact on development, and to convene a thematic debate on the role of credit rating agencies in the international financial system.

25. Ecuador supported the organization of a new conference on financing for development in 2013, in accordance with paragraph 90 of the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development. The Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review should promote the universal and neutral nature of the United Nations development agenda; ensure the quality, quantity and predictability of development aid; and establish a balance between regular and extrabudgetary components.

26. The Committee should take a comprehensive approach to migration and development and, while upholding the fundamental rights of migrant workers and their families, should also consider policies to manage international migration as part of an overall development and poverty reduction strategy. It should work to implement the outcome document of the Rio+20 conference. His country strongly supported a second period of commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, which should result in ambitious and binding greenhouse gas reduction targets for developed countries.

27. Ecuador had made a number of innovative proposals on climate change, such as the Net Avoided Emissions mechanism and the Yasuní-YTT initiative,

which would preserve biological and cultural diversity and foster a shared responsibility for global public goods. At the national level, his Government had introduced a tax on the sale of petrol to developed countries, which would fund adaptation and mitigation measures in developing countries. Ecuador had adopted the concept of "living well" and was the first country whose Constitution recognized the rights of nature. Development policies should not be limited to energy efficiency: they should provide for redistributive and humane development respectful of the rights of nature.

28. **Mr. Estreme** (Argentina) said that the continuing economic and financial crises were a result of conventional economic theories that promoted deregulation and uncontrolled national and international financial transactions. Global economic governance should therefore be reformed in order to strengthen the legitimacy and effectiveness of the international financial institutions, increasing the representation of developing countries. The International Monetary Fund should become more multilateral and cooperative, and the issuance of special drawing rights should reflect the growing role of developing countries in the global economy.

29. Noting that the Rio+20 conference had underscored the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, he said that Argentina would work with others in the General Assembly to establish a high-level political forum on sustainable development, strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme, define a strategy to fund sustainable development and formulate sustainable development goals. The goals should be inclusive and transparent; grounded in international law and scientific progress; based on a systematic approach; and focused on poverty eradication. Most importantly, the means for their implementation should be available. The slow pace of progress in establishing an open working group to discuss the topic should be addressed.

30. The sustainable development goals should allow for Governments to have a role in tackling inequality. Particularly in Latin America, structural income inequality within and across borders was hampering economic development and widening the global gap in resource distribution. It was therefore important to generate productive and quality employment, and to bring an end to agricultural subsidies and protectionist measures.

31. **Mr. Niyazaliev** (Kyrgyzstan) said that the attention of the international community in 2012 had been focused on the issue of sustainable development as it had been addressed by the Rio+20 conference. In keeping with the discussions on models for a green economy, his country had opted to pursue a long-term strategy dedicated to sustainable and green development and an ecologically sound economy. In the current global economic climate, special attention should be accorded to countries whose specific geographical realities made them more vulnerable economically, notably mountainous countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing countries.

32. Mountainous countries such as his own were especially vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change. In addition, a majority of developing mountainous countries were burdened by external debt that only continued to grow despite timely payments. As a result, the capacities of such countries to finance social and environmental programmes had been severely curtailed, while investors had been discouraged from contributing to their economies. His Government therefore called on the international community to provide debt relief for such countries.

33. It likewise looked forward to the upcoming eighteenth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and it shared the common view that climate change had become one of the most serious challenges facing the world, and that it called for a comprehensive approach in order to achieve a breakthrough. As the Secretary-General's report on climate change and its possible security implications (A/64/350) had pointed out, the melting of glaciers and the reduction of snow cover would increase in the twenty-first century and would lead to water shortages and a reduction of hydroelectric potential. That process would impact the Central Asian region especially hard, with the possibility of catastrophic consequences for regional and global security. Likewise, the increasing frequency and destructiveness of natural disasters resulting from climate change could present serious dangers with regard to uranium stores located in the region.

34. **Mr. Ferguson** (Australia) said that his Government had been particularly pleased with the outcome of the Rio+20 conference regarding sustainable management and conservation of the

oceans. With one of the longest coastlines in the world, it considered the health of the oceans to be of critical importance. At the same time, 22 of its closest neighbours were developing countries, most of them small island developing States, and it recognized that their development depended on exploiting the ocean's resources. For that reason, his delegation was committed to working closely with them to deliver on the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (BPOA), the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS and the Future We Want.

35. Rio+20 had recognized the need to improve food security and the need for increased investment in agricultural research and development, but a great deal more needed to be done in that area. His Government was working through the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), as well as directly with partner Governments in Africa, in order to share experiences and to improve agricultural productivity, including in dry land farming. It had also recently opened, in Kenya, the first office in Africa of the Australian International Food Security Centre which would focus on strengthening food security and providing access to the latest innovations for farmers in several countries in the Southeast Africa region.

36. While the international community had made significant progress in its quest to achieve the MDGs, poverty and hardship were still endemic in many regions of the world. In response to that dire need, his Government had tripled its ODA contributions and was preparing to increase them by an additional 50 per cent within the next four years. Looking beyond 2015, the global development agenda should remain focused on poverty eradication, while at the same time seeking ways to better integrate social, economic and environmental imperatives. His country looked forward to contributing to the development of the sustainable development goals and to the QCPR as a way to drive meaningful reforms to the United Nations system that would enable it to deliver real results for the world's poor.

37. **Mr. Narkhuu** (Mongolia) said that the world economy still faced an uncertain future. In addition, climate change continued to pose challenges that called for a comprehensive collective response. Among those challenges, achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, and facilitating sustainable development in keeping with the Rio+20 outcome document were among those that deserved the greatest attention.

38. In order to meet the special development needs of the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing countries, development partners should respond in the form of ODA, market access, technical assistance, technology transfers and the removal of tariff and non-tariff international trade barriers. In that regard, his country hoped that the upcoming review of the Almaty Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries would produce recommendations for tangible measures and deliverables in order to enhance the productive integration of such countries into regional and global trading systems.

39. His Government was strongly committed to achieving the MDGs, as evidenced by the double-digit growth of its economy over the past several years. Some 77.9 per cent of the goals had already been met. However, if progress continued at its current pace, some goals, including those of halving poverty and ensuring environmental sustainability, were unlikely to be fulfilled. More would have to be done if those goals were to be achieved by the 2015 deadline.

40. **Mr. Empole** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly was especially important in terms of building on the discussions begun at the Rio+20 conference, in particular with respect to elaborating the sustainable development goals, establishing a high-level political forum charged with evaluating progress towards sustainable development and reinforcing and expanding the mandate of UNEP. That process should be conducted with maximum transparency and with the participation of all stakeholders.

41. In that context, the Committee should play a central role in the realization of the post-Rio+20 agenda, and it should propose concrete measures towards that end through the adoption of relevant resolutions. Nevertheless, participation in implementing those objectives should not constitute a reason for development partners to disengage from their other obligations, particularly those undertaken to assist the poor and most vulnerable. In keeping with the spirit of Rio, which identified poverty as one of the greatest challenges facing the world, the full realization of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the

least developed countries should remain a top priority for the United Nations system and the international community as a whole. Additionally, financing for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change for the most vulnerable countries should remain a primary concern. In that regard, he wished to thank all of the developed countries which had met or surpassed their commitments to contribute 0.7 per cent of their gross national income (GNI) in development assistance, and he urged those that had not yet done so to follow their lead.

42. One of the major consequences of the multiple crises confronting the world had been the increased pressure being placed on limited natural resources in order to meet the needs of growing populations, which regrettably had exacted a toll on the environment. Efforts to eradicate poverty should therefore take into account all facets of the problem by addressing the issue from the perspective of an inclusive and green economy. In order to bring such an economy into being, it would be necessary to change the approach taken at all levels, from decision makers and administrators to producers, consumers and other partners. Accordingly, the United Nations system should enjoin all stakeholders to acquit themselves of their responsibilities and obligations to produce in an ethical manner and to consume responsibly.

43. Countries such as his would not achieve the MDGs if international solidarity was lacking, and he called on development partners to fulfil their commitments to facilitate technology transfers, to increase ODA and to eliminate trade barriers. For its part, his Government was conscious of its own responsibilities to improve the lives of its people, and it had dedicated all of its human, material and financial resources to ensuring the emergence of a prosperous country. In addition, the task of consolidating peace and security in his country required that its natural resources should be effectively controlled, that security should be re-established, and that its displaced populations should be repatriated.

44. Given that his country possessed half of all the fresh water in Africa and 60 per cent of the forestland of the Congo basin it had all of the natural endowments necessary to achieve the goal of a green economy. However, while his Government had taken every possible measure to ensure such an outcome, the persistence of armed conflicts in the east of the country had continued to sap the strength and vitality of the population. His delegation therefore called for a universal condemnation of the warlords who were at the heart of such conflicts. It likewise called for the international community to recognize and compensate for the measures his country had taken to preserve its biodiversity and to ensure the sustainable use of its forests.

45. A true international partnership was needed in order to achieve a green economy, preserve the forests, mitigate climate change and embark on sustainable development. To that end, his country called for the finalization and implementation of an international Convention on forests in order to better regulate the climate and maintain an ecosystem so essential to the well-being of humanity.

46. **Mr. Kihurani** (Kenya) said that the multiple challenges facing the developing countries had been compounded by the ongoing global economic crisis. Consequently, there was an urgent need for timely and coordinated delivery of all international commitments undertaken at major United Nations conferences and summits. Rio+20 had addressed a number of issues related to sustainable development which required follow-up, most notably the decision to establish sustainable development goals and to launch the intergovernmental process on the post-2015 development strategy. Dedicated and accelerated strategies were needed to fully realize the vision expressed in the Millennium Declaration in order to make globalization a positive force for all.

47. His delegation believed that poverty eradication, expanded opportunities for trade and environmental protection should be at the centre of the sustainable development goals. The latter should take into account the special needs of developing countries, particularly African countries, many of which were unlikely to achieve the MDGs by 2015. His delegation looked forward to an active engagement in the discussion on both the intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals as well as the post-2015 development strategy. It was his view that a single process led by the United Nations should emerge from those parallel discussions. The development agenda should promote coherence in policymaking and should provide the requisite means of implementation.

48. In addition, the reforms of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and UNEP should

enable those institutions to be responsive to the needs of member countries, in particular developing countries. The Council should be empowered to take the lead coordinating role in the integration of the environmental, economic and social pillars of sustainable development, while UNEP should be invested with stable and predictable financial resources, universal membership, implementation functions and a consolidation of its scattered departments in Nairobi for better coordination. The high-level political forum should bring all stakeholders together and provide political impetus for implementation of all agreed outcomes. Finally, the 10-Year Framework Programme (10-YFP) on sustainable consumption and production should be located at UNEP.

49. **Mr. Llorentty** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that developing countries were the victims of an economic crisis not of their making, and continued to lack resources for sustainable development. Developed countries must therefore shoulder their responsibilities. At a time when the financial sector was devouring the real economy, solutions could not come from market mechanisms such as carbon trading. Accordingly, he suggested that a tax on international financial transactions should be introduced, on a voluntary and gradual basis, in order to provide for a sustainable development fund. Lack of resources could be no excuse given that military expenditure worldwide currently accounted for over $1.5 trillion. That money could be better spent on offsetting the effects of climate change and on sustainable development.

50. His country's National Development Plan aimed to foster a dignified, democratic, productive and sovereign country upholding the concept of "living well". The Government was seeking to eliminate extreme poverty by 2025. Indigenous peoples, entrepreneurs and producers' cooperatives were being consulted on ways to achieve food self-sufficiency, a goal that would contribute to the Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger 2025 initiative.

51. His country was listed as a landlocked developing country not because it was a landlocked country but because it had been deprived of access to its own coastline due to the effects of war.

52. He hoped that the designation of 2013 as the International Year of Quinoa would help to further the goal of food security. Having recently become a middle-income country, his country stood prepared to share its experience in combating underdevelopment.

53. **Mr. Tarar** (Pakistan) said that while some progress had been made towards achieving the MDGs, rampant inequality and poverty continued to fuel social unrest and political turmoil in many parts of the world. It was clear from previous discussions that the steps which had been taken in the past had not been adequate to the tasks at hand. In particular, given the interdependent nature of the challenges facing the international community, reliance on ad hoc mechanisms and decision-making in exclusive settings was clearly not the solution. His delegation would therefore call for a harnessing of the full potential of the United Nations system.

54. His country welcomed a number of important decisions taken at the Rio+20 Conference, notably the decision to formulate sustainable development goals, to establish a high-level political forum to channel discussions and to strengthen the mandate of ECOSOC. It was important in that context to meet the deadlines in implementing those decisions, and it was regrettable that the international community had been unable as yet to establish a working group mandated to formulate the goals. He urged member countries to demonstrate flexibility and to move beyond political positions, which had inhibited important work from being undertaken.

55. An important aspect of the Committee's work involved delineating a collective path towards the post-2015 development agenda. To that end, the high-level panel established by the Secretary-General should avoid exclusivity of composition, since that would militate against the multilateral spirit needed to achieve consensus. Countries with different levels of development had differing priorities, yet common challenges needed to be addressed collectively.

56. His Government hoped that the high-level panel would, among other things, highlight the need to continue providing aid to the world's most vulnerable countries, despite the climate of financial austerity; send a political signal condemning irresponsible financial practices; stress the centrality of climate change as one of the biggest development challenges; emphasize the need for greater participation by developing countries in the governance of international institutions; lay the foundation for a structured mechanism to address the sovereign debt crisis;

underline the importance of debt relief for all; and earnestly call on countries to avoid protectionism.

57. For a developing country such as his own, mitigating the effects of climate change was particularly important, as the devastating floods in 2010 and 2011 had demonstrated. The national response to those disasters had gone a long way to minimize the consequences of the damage done by introducing a revised framework for economic growth, reinvigorating the rural economy and strengthening the social safety net through such programmes as the Benazir Income Support Programme, which had provided cash transfers to some 6 million poor families.

58. His Government had likewise made efforts to increase revenue collection while curtailing spending and rationalizing energy tariff structures, and it was moving towards more open trade and regional integration. Internationally, it expected a level playing field and attached great importance to improving global economic governance, and it was prepared to partner with the international community in all aspects to ensure the promotion of global economic and development interests.

59. **Mr. León González** (Cuba) said that, as was customary, the Group of 77 and China would be submitting most of the draft resolutions. Developed countries should reciprocate by showing political will. The draft resolutions should be worded clearly and would avoid the tired and frequently meaningless formulations that were all too often adopted for the sake of achieving consensus.

60. Certain States had recently sought to dilute or even eliminate the role of the General Assembly in developing comprehensive solutions to the global economic situation. Those same States had sought to impose exclusionary agendas and documents negotiated outside the United Nations in order to evade their commitments. However, given the current economic crisis there was no justification for reducing official development assistance. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute Yearbook 2011, world military expenditure had reached $1.63 trillion in 2010. One fifth of that figure would be enough to realize the MDGs. A just and inclusive new international economic order was sorely needed; the role of the General Assembly was central, and should be strengthened.

61. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review should reaffirm and strengthen the principles underlying United Nations activities in developing countries. Those activities should be intergovernmental and limited to development. United Nations agencies, funds and programmes should become more proactive and responsive to the needs of the South. They should have access to increased, predictable and non-conditional funds for socioeconomic development. They should act flexibly and impartially, taking into consideration the characteristics and approaches of developing countries. In order to avoid duplication or conflicts of interests, the remit of each agency should be respected.

62. The Committee had a responsibility to follow up the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference and prepare for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2014. It should also take into account other relevant forums, such as the eighteenth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Developed States should take action against climate change and allow the prompt inception of a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol.

63. Cuba had struggled for development under unique circumstances owing to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America. Cuban society had taken significant economic and social strides and continued to develop its economic system notwithstanding the difficult global situation.

64. **Mr. Sarki** (Nigeria) said that the QCPR provided a unique opportunity for the global community to enhance the funding, functioning and effectiveness of United Nations operational activities for development.

65. The outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference, entitled "The future we want" represented a reaffirmation of the global community's commitment to promoting the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. In following up on that outcome document, the international community must ensure equal representation of all geographical regions and the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders in the sustainable development goals process.

66. Poverty eradication remained one of the greatest challenges facing developing countries. That challenge had been further exacerbated by the global financial

crisis, food insecurity and climate change. Official development assistance could play a critical role in eradicating poverty and catalysing economic and social development. In that connection, developed countries must, despite the ongoing global financial crisis, seek to honour the commitments they had made in the Gleneagles communiqué, including their commitment to double ODA by 2010. Developing countries should also review how domestic resources were mobilized with a view to ensuring that they were used effectively. In that regard, Nigeria had endorsed a "transformation agenda" to help streamline decision-making and ensure that it achieved its national development objectives by 2020. It was also seeking to attract foreign direct investment and expand the contribution to its economy made by the non-oil sector.

67. The global community must accelerate action to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations at levels that did not dangerously disrupt climate systems. The Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC was the legitimate and key forum for addressing all aspects of climate change, for the latter was having a huge negative impact on Africa's development. In recent weeks flooding had left thousands in Nigeria without homes or employment, while in other parts of the country, sustainable agriculture was being threatened by desertification, drought and land degradation. Many communities across the Sahel could no longer meet their food requirements; without food security, the economic stability of the entire region was threatened. The global community must commit to full implementation of the UNFCCC outcome document. Furthermore, in order to effectively address the challenges the Sahel region faced, the United Nations must sustain its efforts to galvanize the required political will, develop norms, support capacity-building and coordinate the actions of all relevant stakeholders.

68. His delegation commended the United Nations on convening the High-Level Meeting on the Sahel and welcomed the appointment by the Secretary-General of a Special Envoy for the Sahel and the formulation of the United Nations regional integrated strategy for the Sahel.

69. **Mr. Aslov** (Tajikistan) said that ensuring sustainable economic development with the aim of improving the population's living standards and quality of life was a central strategic goal for his Government. Special attention had been given to the effective and rational use of natural resources, in keeping with the imperatives of a green economy.

70. His country attached great importance to the interests of the landlocked developing countries, which were vulnerable as a result of their geographic placement, and it was committed to implementing the decisions and recommendations of the Almaty Programme of Action on transit transportation. Full implementation would significantly contribute to the development of regional trade and economic cooperation. It called for landlocked developing countries to be granted most-favoured nation status, and for the elimination of all artificial barriers and obstacles to transportation among countries and regions.

71. His Government actively supported the Secretary-General's "Sustainable Energy for All" initiative, which envisioned universal access to modern energy services, improved energy efficiency and the increased use of renewable energy. Making access to energy a priority issue was key to achieving the MDGs, and it was doubly important for poor and remote mountain countries that lacked easy access to the outside world.

72. Equally important to the countries of the Central Asian region was the issue of climate change. Given that about one third of all glaciers in the region had disappeared in just the past 10 years, addressing the challenges it represented would be determinative of the region's prosperity. As the fate of his country's glaciers, snow caps, mountain lakes and rivers went, so went prospects for its socioeconomic development.

73. Mountainous countries were especially vulnerable to natural disasters, particularly water-related ones; each year such disasters caused enormous economic and social damage, leaving thousands of people without shelter and often claiming many lives. His delegation therefore hoped that the Committee would give due attention to the issue of disaster prevention and mitigation. In 2013, the world would mark the International Year of Water Cooperation, which would coincide with the twentieth anniversary of the proclamation of World Water Day. His Government hoped that the event would contribute to strengthening mutual understanding and cooperation at all levels with respect to achieving internationally agreed goals on water and sanitation. His delegation

would soon be submitting a draft resolution concerning the International Year of Water Cooperation.

74. **Mr. Bhattarai** (Nepal) said that the Rio+20 Conference had rightly identified poverty eradication as the greatest challenge facing the world. Full implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action was essential if the world was to achieve sustainable development in least developed countries. The global community should strive to achieve the MDGs and all other development goals within their agreed-upon time frames. The post-2015 development agenda must, first and foremost, focus on sustainable development with poverty eradication as its primary objective.

75. The economies of least developed and landlocked developing countries were vulnerable to internal and external shocks. Those countries often lacked efficient and effective transit transport infrastructure and had limited access to global trade. In preparing for a comprehensive 10-year review conference of the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, the international community must therefore identify existing bottlenecks and propose future actions to address the specific needs of landlocked developing countries.

76. As Nepal suffered disproportionately from the negative impact of climate change, even though its contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions was negligible, it deserved particular attention from the international community. The decisions taken at the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change must be implemented as a matter of priority and the upcoming eighteenth session must address the needs and the specific vulnerabilities of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in a comprehensive, equitable, and balanced manner.

77. Economic globalization had led to inequalities of historic proportions and must be made more inclusive and responsive to the needs of poor and marginalized people. In particular, least developed countries must be the key beneficiaries of the Doha Round, especially with regard to duty- and quota-free access to markets and simplified rules of origin. Nepal supported rule-based, equitable, predictable and non-discriminatory trading mechanisms. It also viewed the green economy as a new development opportunity that could create jobs and enable countries to pursue development in line with their national priorities.

78. Further action must be taken to promote aid-for-trade initiatives and strengthen the Enhanced Integrated Framework. Nepal fully supported the conclusions of the Secretary-General's report on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. That review must, however, fully take into account Member States' domestic needs and achievements. Lessons learned from the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and by the pilot countries involved in the "delivering as one" initiative should be shared among all relevant stakeholders. South-South and triangular cooperation needed to be vigorously promoted in order to complement North-South cooperation. Developed countries must meet their ODA commitments without delay. The United Nations must promote greater coordination between the programmes of the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization for the promotion of global economic governance; the voices of developing countries must be heard in those institutions' decision-making processes.

Statements made in exercise of the right of reply

79. **Mr. Govrin** (Israel) said that the accusations made against Israel had nothing to do with the general debate and undermined the professional nature of the forum. It was disturbing that the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic continued to insist on wasting the Committee's time with cynical attacks. The Syrian regime had no credibility whatsoever and did not care about the development of its own people. Many Syrian children, women and men had been tortured and brutally murdered by the regime of Bashar Al-Assad. Despite the absolute media censorship in the country, the situation had been documented by international news outlets and recent reports of the United Nations and the League of Arab States.

80. The representative of Lebanon had failed to mention the context of the 2006 conflict, which had been started by an orchestrated attack launched against Israel by the Hizbullah terrorist organization. Nor had she said anything about the environmental destruction that the war had caused in Israel, or the fact that Israel had cooperated extensively with UNEP and other agencies and non-governmental organizations that were working to assess and address the environmental situation along the coast of Lebanon.

81. In view of the many crucial and pressing issues on the Committee's agenda, it was unfortunate that some Member States never missed an opportunity to politicize issues that were not political in nature. He hoped that, in future, the Committee's time would be spent on issues that genuinely deserved its attention.

82. **Mr. Jawhara** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the accusations made by the representative of Israel were disingenuous. The inhuman Zionist entity was responsible for a criminal occupation, the worst that humanity had ever known. Its exploitation of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and occupied Syrian Golan had been documented by the United Nations, and the issue was on the Committee's agenda. The Committee had an important role to play in exposing Israel's violations of the relevant resolutions and asserting the sovereignty of the people of Palestine and the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources. The international community should press for an end to the inhuman policies of blockade and starvation, which constituted a denial of the right to development, food and a life of dignity.

83. **Mr. AlHantouli** (Observer for Palestine) said that the various committees of the General Assembly could not display a split personality depending on the issue at hand. Israel, too, had lost credibility owing to its ongoing illegal occupation of Palestine. The representative of Israel had mentioned the need for professionalism; but that very consideration meant that the issue should be approached comprehensively. Israel's occupation violated political, economic, developmental and social rights; all of Palestine, including its environment, was suffering on a daily basis.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.